

After graduation, Betty started working for Sunflower Humphrey Counties Progress, Inc., at the Drew Head Start Center. She retired after 25 years. During that time, she received her Associate Degree from Coahoma Community College. Although she attended both Mississippi Valley State University and Delta State University, she received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood from Lemoyne Owen College, in Memphis, TN.

Betty has worked for Southern Echo and Genesis Hospice, as a Community Outreach Coordinator and Educator. She volunteered for the Drew School District for many years.

Betty was a Sunday School Teacher for Noah Memorial Baptist Church for over 20 years until the church closed. Then, she became a member of Holly Grove Missionary Baptist Church, where she is currently a Sunday School Teacher and the Chairperson for the Mother and Mission of the Church. In her lifetime, she has served on various boards throughout Sunflower County:

- Sunflower Humphrey Counties Progress Board of Directors;
- Tallahatchie Housing;
- Sunflower County Democratic Executive Committee;
- Community Health Advisory Research Program;
- We2Gether Creating Change;
- Vice President of Drew United for Progress;
- Drew Collaborative;
- Civil Rights Committee;
- Sunflower County Economic Development Board; and
- Drew Food Pantry.

She has received many certificates, awards, and plaques for her efforts in community service. She has been a tremendous asset to her church and community. Her motivation seems to be prompted by a need to help others, and that is what serving God is all about.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Betty Smith for her dedication and tenacity to serving her community and desire to be an example for all.

RECOGNIZING TAMPA BAY'S
LOCAL TRAILBLAZER, DR.
DAVINA JONES, IN HONOR OF
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great educator and leader in the Tampa Bay community, Dr. Davina Arleen Jones.

Dr. Jones is one of six children, born and raised in the Tampa Bay area. Her mother worked for the county library as a book processor and her father was a city bus operator while also serving as a full-time pastor. Dr. Jones' parents instilled in her and her siblings the importance of commitment, leadership, and the spiritual faith—values she holds close to this day. At the early age of 13, a young Davina Jones gave her first public speech at a Church of God in Christ (COGIC) youth convention.

When she was a young student, Dr. Jones was enrolled in Exceptional Student Education (ESE) in Hillsborough County Public Schools

due to the many challenges in her life, but the challenges would only reveal her drive for education and excellence. Through hard work and perseverance, Dr. Jones went on to graduate from Bethune-Cookman University with a bachelor's degree in speech communication. She later went on to receive her master's degree in interpersonal communications and her doctorate in communication studies from Bowling Green State University. These significant accomplishments led Dr. Jones to author "From ESE to PHD: Discovering your hidden potential." She is also the author of "Choices: What singles ought to know and what married people wished they had learned."

Dr. Jones served as a frontline partner as Florida and our Nation prepared to receive and embrace the historic Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune statue in the Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol in 2022. Dr. Bethune's statue replaced the statue of a Confederate general that stood since the Jim Crow era and Dr. Jones advocated for Dr. Bethune as a far superior representative of the values and diversity of the Sunshine State. Dr. Jones continues to lift her community as a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a former president of the Mary McLeod Bethune National Alumni Association Hillsborough Chapter, a former president of the Bethune Cookman National Association Hillsborough Chapter, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Dr. Jones also actively collaborates with the African American Task Force for Hillsborough County Public Schools leadership.

Dr. Jones also continues to provide faith-based community leadership throughout the City of Tampa. She is the Assistant Spiritual Leader of Today's Church Tampa Bay and former lead pastor and teacher of the Greater Love Spiritual Center. In 2015, Dr. Jones moved on her desire to educate and inspire passion to our younger generation when she founded GREAT Camp, a comprehensive program for teens and preteens that offers guidance and development in a variety of topics and skills such as civics development, health & wellness, and financial literacy. Considering all her education, hard work and accomplishments, Dr. Jones stated that her greatest achievement in life was becoming aware of the power of love, the love for oneself and the love for others through God.

Throughout the years, Dr. Jones has instructed public speech communication courses across the State of Florida. Using her expertise and experience, she has provided higher education level instruction to aspiring journalists, marketers and educators within our communities. Dr. Jones served as an assistant professor teaching speech communication at her alma mater Bethune-Cookman in 2001; she became a professor at Florida State College at Jacksonville and she is currently provost and special assistant to the president for equity, diversity and inclusion at Pasco-Hernando State College in Wesley Chapel. She continues her work among Pasco-Hernando State College leadership ensuring that all students receive the education they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Tampa Bay community, this Black History Month, I am proud to recognize the courage, leadership, and spirit of excellence of Dr. Davina Arleen Jones and her many examples of service she provides our communities.

HONORING THE FAIRFIELD FALCONS GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight and celebrate a very special group of Hoosiers.

Recently the Fairfield Falcons Girls Basketball Team out of Goshen, Indiana captured the 3A state title for the very first time in school history.

The Falcons' 49–42 win over Corydon Central in Indianapolis on Saturday was exhilarating, and extra special as it marked Fairfield's first state trophy in any sport.

We've all heard the maxim "defense wins championships" and for the Falcons it turned out to be true.

All season long the Falcons defense was downright stingy, allowing the fewest points per game out of any team in Indiana.

But it wasn't only because of their defense that the Falcons are celebrating.

In particular, Head Coach Brodie Garber credits the 4 senior girls he is graduating for consistently providing the leadership and mentorship needed for his team to take home the title.

Congrats to Coach Garber and all the Falcons—both players and staff—on bringing home the hardware. Their names are listed below:

Varsity Team Members:

Brea Garber, Morgan Gawthrop, Kaylee Dillon, Delana Geiger, Jayslynn Hall, Savannah Cronin, Zoie Miller, Haddee Herbert, Eva Herbert, Bailey Willard, Natalie Whitaker, Macy Worthman.

Coaches:

Head Coach Brodie Garber, Amy Garber, Troy Sands, Lindsay Kauffman.

Managers:

Ava Bontrager, Kealee Dillon.

I thank them for making Hoosiers in Goshen and beyond so incredibly proud.

God Bless them and God Bless America.

COMMENDING MONTANA PHOTO-JOURNALIST LARRY MAYER FOR UNCOVERING THE CHINESE SPY BALLOON

HON. MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, SR.

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, when a Chinese balloon invaded Montana's airspace, the Biden Administration intended to keep the American people in the dark.

But what President Biden didn't count on was the diligent work of Billings Gazette photographer Larry Mayer.

Larry pointed his lens skyward when federal regulators shut down Billings Logan International Airport and captured one of the first public images of a strange object floating in American skies.

Larry may not have known it at the time, but by following his instincts, he uncovered a national security risk from Communist China that